

ACTS *and* MONUMENTS:

OR, AN

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

LIFE *and* DEATH

Of our LORD and SAVIOUR

Jesus Christ.

WITH

The LIVES and MARTYRDOMS of
the Holy EVANGELISTS and APOSTLES.

To which is added,

The LORD'S Prayer and Apostles CREED
in Verse.

43-4-6-31



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Our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. (Dec. 25.)

THERE was no Way of recovering Man out of the miserable Condition he had plung'd himself and his Posterity into by Sin, had not God found out a Way: To this End the Son of God condescends to be conceived by the Virgin *Mary*, and on the 25th of *December* he was born in a Stable, and laid in a Manger. He was circumcised *Jan. 1.* and baptized *Jan. 6.* He preached, did Miracles, suffered Affronts and Injuries, was betrayed, denyed, scourged, accused before *Pilate*, set at naught by *Herod*, a Thief was perferred before him; he was scourged, crowned with Thorns, condemned, crucified, buried, arose again, and ascended into Heaven, where he now sits at the Right Hand of the Father, to make Intercession for all that penitently return unto him.

*O wondrous Love! O Love beyond Degree!
Th' Offended dies to set the Offender free.*

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St. Matthew. (Sept. 21.)



S T. *Matthew* was the Son of *Alpheus*. He was a Publican, or Tax-gatherer, which was a scandalous Office among the *Jews*, they holding that all Publicans were Thieves. Yet his Employment was no Hindrance to his Conversion. He was called from the Receipt of Custom about the Year 31. He was slain with an Halbert in *Ethiopia*, where he lies buried. He wrote his Gospel the first of any Evangelist, and therefore 'tis placed first in the New Testament.

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St.

St. Mark. (April 25.)



S T. Mark was born of *Jewish* Parents. He converted Multitudes at *Alexandria* in *Egypt*, at which Place, about *Easter*, while he was employed in Divine Worship, the People rais'd a Tumult on him and dragg'd him on the Ground through the Streets into Prison, and next Morning came and tore off his Flesh and dragg'd him again 'till he exair'd, and then burn'd his Body. His Bones were buried by the Christians near the Place where he Preached. He wrote his Gospel at *Rome* about the Year 65.

St.



ST. *Luke* was born at *Antioch*, where the Disciples were first called Christians. He was a learned Man, and studied Physick. He was skilful in Painting, and the Virgin *Mary's* Picture was painted by him. He was martyr'd in *Greece*, where he was hang'd on an Olive Tree in the 80th Year of his Age. He wrote his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles; both which are writ with so much Exactness and Accuracy, Politeness and Elegancy, that shew he had a great Share in the native Genius of *Antioch*, his Birth-place. He was (like a true Historian) faithful in his Relations, and elegant in his Writings.

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(6)
St. John. (Dec. 27.)



S t. John, Evangelist and Apostle, was about 26 Years old when he was called to the Apostleship. Christ had a greater Respect for him than he had for any of the rest of the Apostles, and therefore he is call'd, *The Beloved Disciple*. Some say he founded all the Churches in *Asia*. About the Year 99, in the Reign of the Emperor *Domitian*, he was accus'd as a Disturber of the Empire, for which he was put into a Cauldron of boiling Oil, but it had no Power to do him any Harm. He was then banish'd to dig Mines. He wrote his Gospel and his Revelation, and died at *Ephesus*, aged 99.

St.

(7)
 St. Peter. (June 29.)



S T. *Peter* was a Fisherman, and lived at *Bethsaida*, 'till he married, and then remov'd to his Wife's Mother's at *Capernaum*, and there he and his Brother *Andrew* follow'd the Fishing Trade. He was a zealous Preacher of the Gospel, for one of his Sermons converted 3000 Souls. He was call'd to his Martyrdom in the Reign of *Nero*, who caus'd him to be first scourg'd, and then adjudg'd him to be crucified. This holy Apostle, lest he should seem to effect an equal Glory wit his Lord, begg'd he might be crucified with his Head downward, which was done in the Year 66. His Body was buried in the Vatican at *Rome*, and his Tomb was honoured by alt.

(8)
 St. James Major. (July 25.)



St. *James the Great* was a fisherman. He preach'd the Gospel in *Judea*, for which *K. Herod* beheaded him. He was the first Apostle that suffer'd Martyrdom ; and the Person that accused him, seeing his stedfast Zeal for the Gospel, begg'd his Pardon, became a Christian, and was executed with him. *St. James* was a single Man ; he never bathed, eat no Flesh or Fish, and wore only one single Coat, and a Linen Cloak. He was interred at *Jerusalem* about 9 Years after the Death of Christ. But Divine Vengeance soon pursued *Herod*, for he was smitten with an incurable Distemper, and devoured by Worms. *St.*

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ST. *Thomas* preach'd the Gospel in *Perſia*. After our Saviour's Reſurrection and Appearance to the Apoſtles, *Thomas* not being with them, was doubtful, and thought it was ſome Phantaſm, or Form in his Shape. Jeſus knowing the Weakneſs of *Thomas*, about eight Days after appeared again to his Diſciples, when *Thomas* was with them, and bid him reach out his Hand and put it into his Side, &c. which ſo fully convinc'd him, that he cry'd out, *My Lord*, &c. He was martyr'd in *India*, in the Year 66, being fix'd to a Croſs, and run through with a Spear. His Body continued many Years in *India*, and was at laſt removed from thence to *Edreſſa*. St.



S T. *Jude* was the Son of *Mary*, Sister of the Holy Virgin. He was a married Man, and had Children. He was shot to Death with Arrows. He had two Grand-Children that professed Christianity: They had 32 Acres of Land, and maintained their Families by tilling it themselves. The Church honour'd these Men, and esteemed them as the Kindred of Christ and the Martyrs. They were also made Bishops of Churches, and looked upon as Heads of that Spiritual Body. They saw Sr. *Simon* marthered in the Year 107. St. *Jude* liv'd 'till about the Year 62, a little after the Destruction of *Jerusalem*. He wrote the Epistle that bears his Name.

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(11)
St. Paul. [Jan. 25]



S*T. Paul* was a *Jew*, born two Years after Christ, he was educated in the most exact Knowledge of the Law of *Moses*. He was a Tent Maker, and naturally of a very hot Temper. He was a vehement Blasphemer and Persecutor of the Christians, and an Abettor of *St. Stephen's* Martyrdom; but as he was going in the Year 34 with Letters full of Fury to *Damascus*, he was converted by a glorious dazzling Light and Voice from Heaven, which struck him so blind, that he was led to *Damascus*, where, after praying 3 Days, without eating or drinking, he received his Sight, and asserted, that Jesus was *the Christ*. He was beheaded. He wrote 13 Epistles.



ST. *Philip* was born at *Bathsaida*, was a married Man and had several Daughters, and tho' the Cares of a Family engag'd him upon worldly Affairs, yet his chief Care was for his Soul. He was a constant Reader of the Law and Prophets, by which Means he soon had a Knowledge of Christ. He was made an Apostle in the Year 31, when Jesus chose 12 Persons out of the Number of his Disciples to be Preachers of the Gospel. He converted *Nathaniel* before Time could hardly discover his own Conversion. He was first crucified, and then barbarously stoned to Death at a Place called *Hierapolis* in *Asia*, in the 87th Year of his Age. St.



ST. *James the Less* was the Son of *Alpheus* and *Mary*. He was surnamed the *Less* to distinguish him from *Sr. James the Great*, who was of a larger Bulk, but he got a more honourable Name, being for his great Piety, call'd *James the Just* all over the World. He never eat of any living Creature except the Paschal Lamb; and was so constant in Prayer, that the Skin of his Knees was harden'd like a Camel's Skin, and his Body cover'd all over with Paleness by his Fasting. He suffer'd Martyrdom in the Year 62, having been Bp. of *Jerusalem* 28 Years. He was buried near the Temple, and a Monument was set on his Grave. He wrote his Epistle.



ST. Matthias was chosen in the Room of *Judas Iscariot*, who, by his diabolical Treachery, betrayed his good Master into the Hands of his mortal Enemies the *Jews*. He preached the Gospel in *Ethiopia*, and sealed his Doctrine by a glorious Martyrdom. He came of a very great Family of the Tribe of *Judah*, and did Abundance of Miracles, and converted Multitudes to the Faith. He used frequently to say, *That we ought to mortify and subdue the Flesh, by granting it nothing to gratify its sensual Desires; and on the contrary, that we should nourish and fortify our Souls with Faith and Divine Love.* His Body lies interr'd at Rome.

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ST. Andrew was a Native of *Bethsaida*, and Brother of *Peter*, yet not so much by Nature as by Grace. He was a Fisherman, and the first of the Apostles that was admitted to be Christ's Apostle and Disciple. He had a strong Faith in Christ, for when the Disciples thought it impossible to feed the Multitude with so little, *There is a Lad* [says he to *John*] *that hath five Barley Loaves and two Fishes, and if Christ would undertake to feed them, by his Power (as Elisha did 200 with 20 Loaves) they may be sufficient, since he was far greater than he.* He was crucified Nov. 30, in the Year 95.



ST. Bartholomew was a *Galilean*. He is scarce mentioned in the Holy Scriptures. He was content with a silent Piety and humble Faith. He laid the first Foundation of the Christian Faith in *India*. whither he carry'd St. *Matthew's* Gospel written in Hebrew, which he left with them to improve their Faith, and this Gospel was found among the *Indians* by one that went to these Parts above a Hundred Years after. Some say he died in *India*; but the *Greeks* say he was martyr'd in the City of *Albania*, bordering on *Persia*. He was fleed alive by the Command of a barbarous King. St.

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St. Simon.

[Oct. 28]



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ST. *Simon* was born in *Cana*, a Town in *Galilee*, where he liv'd and receiv'd the Faith. He looked upon Christ's Enemies as his own, and shew'd an Indignation to those who profess'd the Faith with their Mouths but dishonour'd their Profession by their vicious Lives. He preached the Gospel in *Egypt*, *Africa*, and *Libia*, exalting the Glory of Christ by doing Miracles. He then came over into *England*, and converted and baptized Multitudes to the Faith, and at length, after many Persecutions, he was crucified by the Infidels, and buried in this Country.

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St. Barnabas. (June 11.)



ST. Barnabas was an Apostle of the *Gentiles*, and he came an Apostle of Christ in his Life-time: He had an Estate in *Cyprus*, which he sold, and brought the Money to the Apostles, to be disposed of to those that most wanted it. He converted Multitudes to the Faith at *Antioch*, where the Believers first assumed the Name of Christians, for before they were called *Nazareens* or *Gallileans*. He was stoned to Death by the *Jews*.

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The LORD's Prayer in Verse,

LORD, at thy Mercy-seat our selves we gather,
 To do our Duties unto thee, *Our Father.*
 To whom all Praise, all Honour should be given;
 For thou art the Great God *which art in Heaven.*
 Thou by thy Wisdom rul'st the World's whole Frame,
 For ever, therefore, *Hallowed be thy Name.*
 Let never more Delays divide us from
 Thy Glories View, but let *Thy Kingdom come;*
 Let thy Commands oppos'd be by none,
 But thy good Pleasure, and *Thy will be done.*
 And let our promptness to obey, be even
 The very same *in Earth, as 'tis in Heaven:*
 Then, for our selves, O Lord, we also pray,
 Thou wouldst be pleas'd to *Give us this Day,*
 That Food of Life wherein our Souls are fed,
 Contented Raiment, and *our daily Bread;*

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With needful Thing do thou relieve us:
 And of thy Mercy, pity *And forgive us*
 All our Misdeeds, in him whom thou didst please,
 To take in Offering for *our Trespases* ;
 And for as much, O Lord, as we believe,
 Thou so wilt pardon us, *as we forgive*,
 Let that Love teach us, wherewith thou acquaints us,
 To pardon all *them, that trespass against us*.
 And tho' sometime thou find'it we have forgot
 This Love, or thee, yet help, *And lead us not*
 Through Soul or Body's Want, to Desperation:
 Nor let Abundance drive, *Into Temptation* ;
 Let not the Soul of any true Believer,
 Fall in the Time of Tryal ; *But deliver*
 Yea, save him from the Malice of the Devil,
 And both in Life and Death keep *us from Evil*.
 Thus pray we Lord : And but of thee, from whom
 Can this be had ! *For thine is the Kingdom*.
 The World is of thy Works the Graven Story,
 To thee belongs *the Power, and the Glory*.
 And this thy Happiness hath ending never ;
 But shall remain *for ever, and for ever*.
 This we confess ; and will confess again,
 Till we shall say Eternally, *Amen*.





The Apostles' CREED in VERSE.

SINCE it befits that I Account should give,
 What Way unto Salvation *I believe* ;
 Of my Profession here the Sum I gather ;
 First, I confess a Faith *in God the Father* :
 In God, who (without Helper or Partaker)

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Was of himself the World's *Almighty Maker*,
 And first gave Time his Being; who gave Birth
 To all the Creatures both of *Heaven and Earth*:
 Our everlasting Welfare doth consist
 In his great Mercies, and in *Jesus Christ*,
 (The second Person of that Three in One)
 The Father equal, and *his only Son*,
 That ever blessed and Incarnate Word,
 Which our Redeemer is, our Life, *our Lord*:
 For when by Satan's Guiles we were deceived;
 Christ was that Means of Help, *who was conceived*:
 Yea, (when we were in Danger to be lost)
 Conceived for us, *by the Holy Ghost*.
 And that we might not ever be forlorn,
 For our Eternal Safety he was *Born*;
 Born as a Man (that Man might not miscarry)
 Even of the Substance of *the Virgin Mary*.
 Yet, lo! a greater Mercy, and a Wonder!
 He that can make all suffer, *suffered under*
 The Jewish Spite (which all the World revile at)
 And cruel Tyrannies of *Pontius Pilate*:
 In him I do believe, who was envied,
 Who with extreamest Heat *was Crucified*:
 Who being Life itself (to make assured
 Our Souls of Safety) was both *dead and buried*:
 And that no servile Fear in us might dwell,
 To conquer, *he descended into Hell*:
 Where no Infernal Power had Power to lay
 Command upon him; but on *the third Day*
 The Force of Death and Hell he did constrain,
 And so in Triumph, *he rose again*:
 Yea, the Almighty Power advanc'd his Head,
 As well above all Things, as *from the Dead*.
 Then that from thence Gifts might to Men be given,
 With Glory *he ascended into Heaven*;

Where

Where that supreme and everlasting Throne,
 Which was prepar'd, he climb'd ; *and sitteth on*
 That blessed Seat, where he shall make Abode
 To plead for us : *at the Right Hand of God* :
 And no where should he be enthroned rather,
 Than there ; for he is God, as is *the Father*,
 And therefore, with an equal Love delight I
 To praise and serve them both, as one *Almighty* ;
 Yet in their Office there's a Difference.
 And I believe, that Jesus Christ *from thence*,
 Shall in the Great and Universal Doom,
 Return, and that with Angels *he shall come*,
 To question such as at the Empire grudge,
 Even those who have perused him *to judge* ;
 And that black Day shall be so Catholick,
 As I believe, not only that *the Quick*,
 To that Assize shall all be summoned,
 But he will both adjudge them, *and the Dead*.

Moreover, in the Godhead I conceive
 Another Person, in whom *I believe* :
 For all my Hopes of Blessedness were lost,
 If I believ'd not *in the Holy Ghost*.
 And tho' some vain People, through Pride and Folly,
 Contemn her Power ; I do believe *the Holy*
 Chaste Spouse of Christ (for whom so many search,
 By Marks uncertain) the true *Catholick Church*.
 I do believe (God keep us in this Union)
 That there shall be for ever *the Communion*
 Of God's Elect ; and that he still acquaints
 His Children in the Fellowship of *Saints*.
 Tho' damnd by Man's Natural Condition,
 By Grace in Christ, I look for *the Remission*
 Of all my soul Misdeeds ; for there begins
 Death's End, which is the Punishment of *Sins*.
 Moreover, I the *Sadduces* Infection
 Abhor ; and do believe *the Resurrection* :

Yea,

Yea, tho' I turn to Dust, yet, thro' God, I
 Expect a Glorious Rising *of the Body*;
 And that (exempted from the Cares here rise)
 I shall enjoy Perfection, *and the Life*,
 That is not subject unto Change or Wasting,
 For ever blessed, and for *ever-lasting*.
This is my Faith: Which that it fail not, when
 It most should stead me, let GOD say, AMEN.

F I N I S.



